GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1158
ANSWERED ON:25.07.2016
Education for Children in Slum Areas
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Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has conducted any survey on the status of education of children living in slums, especially, in metro cities of the country;
(b) if so, the details thereof; and
(c) the schemes/projects implemented/being implemented for education of such children?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
(SHRI UPENDRA KUSHWAHA)
(a) and (b): As per an independent survey titled 'National Sample Survey of Estimation of Out of School Children in the Age 6-13 in India' commissioned by Ministry of Human Resource Development in 2014, 4.73 lakh children living in slum areas are estimated to be out of school. State-wise details of out of school children in slum areas as per 2014 survey are at Annexure. Data in respect of metro cities of the country are not separately available.
(c): The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009, provides for compulsory admission, attendance and completion of elementary education to every child in the age group of 6-14 years. Section 4 of the RTE Act provides for special training for age appropriate admission of out of school children. State Governments and UT Administrations implement the provision of RTE Act, 2009 in accordance with their State RTE rules and regulations.
Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) is the designated Centrally Sponsored Scheme for meeting the objective of RTE Act, 2009. Under SSA, assistance is provided to State Governments and UT Administrations for universalization of elementary education in the country. Since inception of SSA in 2001 till 31.3.2016, opening of 2.04 lakh new primary schools and 1.59 lakh new upper primary schools; and construction of 18.61 lakh additional classrooms have been sanctioned to States and UTs to enable the States to provide access to elementary education. In addition, 3609 Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas, which are residential schools for girls at upper primary level, have also been sanctioned to the States for improving access to marginalised girls particularly out of school, either drop out or never enrolled.
Under the SSA, provisions have also been made for residential schools/hostels and transportation/ escort facility for children living in sparsely populated areas, children living in areas where schools cannot be opened due to unavailability of land and children in need of care and protection. Special training is also provided to all such children who are school dropouts, children of migrants, children living in slums, street and working children, children without adult protection etc.
Besides, strategies adopted by Ministry of Human Resource Development such as strengthening of school infrastructure, improving Pupil Teacher Ratio, providing incentives like free textbooks, uniforms for eligible category of children and mid-day meal in schools have proved to be useful in increasing the enrolment of children in elementary schools.
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